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C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 001776

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STATE FOR NEA/MAG (MHARRIS)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/12/2016
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [TS](#)
SUBJECT: RESHUFFLE OF GOVERNORS

REF: TUNIS 1402

Classified By: Ambassador William Hudson, for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (U) In a routine reshuffle announced in all daily newspapers on July 10, six governors moved from one governorate to another, two were appointed for the first time, and one, Ali Ksiki, was "called to other (unspecified) duties." Governorship changes were as follows:

Name	Former Region	Current
Ali Ksiki	Sfax	None
Kamel Somai	Le Kef	Sfax
Taieb Ragoubi	Kebili	Sousse*
Faiez Ayed	Ariana	Ben Arous
Adbeljalil Zaddam	Ben Arous	Ariana
Brahim Briki	Gabes	Kebili
Kamel Labbassi	Mahdia	Le Kef
Taieb Aloui	None	Mahdia
Abdelkrim Mesbah	None	Gabes

NOTE: The previous Governor of Sousse, Abderrahman Limam, was appointed Director General of the National Guard on June 5, after former Director General of the National Guard, Abdessatar Bennour replaced Mohamed Ali Ganzoui as MOI Secretary of State for National Security (reftel). END NOTE.

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¶2. (C) Comment: There are no surprises in the recent shift in governors, as President Ben Ali often changes high level positions in the summer months. (This is the 60th presidential reshuffle of government positions since Ben Ali took office in 1987). First-time governors Aloui and Mesbah have long histories of ruling RCD party support and both previously served as career officials in the Interior Ministry, most recently as Secretary Generals of Governorates. Although GOT decision-making is highly centralized, governors are viewed as the President's local representatives, and thus do wield some regional power. The positions, especially those in key areas such as Sousse and Sfax, are often seen as important political stepping stones. End Comment.
HUDSON